areas. One more new scheme "Annapurna' has also been introduced by the Government this year.

Plan to provide drinking water in Rajasthan

4849. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 40 per cent of Indians have no access to drinking water at home; and

(b) if so, whether Government have any plan so that every Indian citizen can have drinking water at their places of residence and in distant areas of deserts like Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) As per the information furnished up to 1st March 2000 by the State Government's out of 1430543 rural habitations in the country, 26481 habitations are not covered, 211685 habitations are partially covered and 1192377 habitations are fully covered with access to drinking water facilities. Out of the urban population of 23.93 crore as estimated for 31st March, 1997, approximately 21.57 crore have been provided with access to drinking water facilities till 31st March, 1997.

(b) Drinking Water Supply is a State subject. The State Government implement the programme under the State Sector Minimum Need Programme (MNP). The Central Government only supplements the efforts of the States by providing funds under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Power have been delegated to the States to plan, sanction and implement their individual rural water supply schemes.

The National Agenda for Governance of the Government envisages provision of drinking water to all rural habitations in the country in five years time. In accordance with this avowed objective all the States were requested to prepare action plan to provide drinking water to all rural habitations in five years time. Action plans in respect of all the State/UTs have been received, except A&N Islands. This objective could be achieved, subject to availability of funds. Similarly, 100% urban population is targeted to be provided with safe drinking water facilities in the Ninth Plan period, subject to availability of funds.